WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. Apparatus for use in draining, cleaning and refilling an aquarium tank comprising:

a) an elongated flexible hose having first and second opposite ends;

b) a tube including an upper distal end for connection to said first end of said flexible hose, and a lower distal end adapted to be immersed in the aquarium tank such that said lower end may be placed near the bottom of the aquarium tank;

c) a first means attachable to said second end of said flexible hose and for connection to a flowing water source for creating a flow of water from the tank through said tube and said flexible hose; and,

d) a grille, defined by a chamber and including a plurality of apertures formed in the walls thereof that are narrower than the width of the gravel particles, said grille and chamber attached to said lower distal end of said tube for contact with the gravel for moving the gravel about the floor of the tank such that the gravel particles are forced by said movement to bump and rub against each other outside said tube to dislodge the sediment and impurities that have gathered therewith, and wherein said sediment and impurities are swept by said water flow through said apertures into said chamber, up said tube and through said hose for discard without the entrance of gravel into said tube or hose.



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2. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said first means comprises:

a) a base containing a main faucet water transfer tube having spaced-apart top and bottom terminal ends, including a cap for attaching said top end of said tube in axial, watertight alignment with the outlet of a standard faucet for directing a flow of faucet water downward, through said tube and out said bottom end thereof toward a drain;

b) said transfer tube having a narrower diameter section intermediate said terminal ends for providing a venturi effect; and,

c) a side tube interconnected said main faucet water transfer tube, in the area of said narrower diameter, and containing means for attaching one end of said flexible hose thereto.

3. The apparatus of Claim 1 further including a second means for causing selective and alternative flow of water from the aquarium tank through said tube and said elongated flexible hose to drain water from the tank and, in addition, causing a flow of water from said flowing water source through said hose and said tube for refilling the aquarium tank.

4. The apparatus of Claim 3 wherein said first and second means comprise:

a) a base containing a main faucet water transfer tube having spaced-apart top and bottom terminal ends, including a cap for attaching said top end of said tube

in axial, watertight alignment with the outlet of a standard faucet for directing a flow of faucet water downward, through said tube and out said bottom end thereof, toward a drain;

b) said transfer tube having a narrower diameter section intermediate said terminal ends for providing a venturi effect;

c) a side tube interconnected said main faucet water transfer tube, in the area of said narrower diameter, and containing means for attaching one end of said flexible hose thereto; and,

d) a valve mounted to said tube bottom end including a shut-off plate transversely mounted for reciprocal motion from a first position apart from said bottom tube end, for permitting passage therethrough of faucet water, sediment, and impurities along with the aquarium tank water, and a second position against said bottom tube end, for shutting off the flow of water therethrough and diverting faucet water out said side tube through said flexible hose into said tube and into the aquarium.

5. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said grille has some portion thereof in contact with the water at all times to provide an uninterrupted flow of water through said grille, said tube and said flexible tube at all times that said grille is immersed in the water.



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6. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said tube is formed of separate pieces that may be attached together in end-to-end fashion.

7. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said tube is greater in diameter than said flexible hose.

8. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said tube is the same diameter as said flexible hose.

9. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said grille is attached to said bottom end of said tube across the full open end of said tube.

10. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said grille is permanently attached to said bottom end of said tube.

11. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said grille is removeably attached to said bottom end of said tube.

12. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said grille comprises:

a) a planar base frame defined by sides that form a perimeter thereabout;

b) an opening formed in said frame about which, on one side thereof, is located a means for attaching said grille to said tube lower distal end;

c) support arms extending from said base frame in convergent manner to form a tooth-shaped lattice; and,

d) at least one screen formed over said lattice

having a bottom support and a top perimeter adjacent and attached to said frame.

13. The apparatus of Claim 12 wherein said support arms, said lattice, and said screen are molded in a monolithic unit.

14. The apparatus of Claim 12 wherein are formed a plurality of tooth-shaped screens and each said screen is formed parallel to the other.

15. The apparatus of Claim 12 wherein are formed a plurality of screens, wherein at least two of said screens are spaced from each other a distance such that a portion of one said screen is always exposed to water in the tank regardless of the position of said other screen.

16. The apparatus of Claim 12 wherein each said screen is further defined by a bottom support and a top perimeter, said perimeter located adjacent said base frame.

17. The apparatus of Claim 16 wherein the distance between each said bottom support and said top perimeter of said screen is greater than the depth of the gravel at the bottom of the aquarium tank.

18. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said screen includes a plurality of slots formed therethrough, each said slot having a width sufficient to allow passage of sediment and impurities therethrough and narrow enough to prevent the passage of gravel particles


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therethrough.

19. Apparatus for use in draining, cleaning and refilling an aquarium tank comprising:

a) an elongated flexible hose having first and second opposite ends;

b) a tube including an upper distal end for connection to said first end of said flexible hose, and a lower distal end adapted to be immersed in the aquarium tank such that said lower end may be placed adjacent the bottom of the aquarium tank, said hose and said tube of such length to allow said second flexible hose end to be placed below the level of water in the tank and a partial vacuum to be started to create a natural siphon action to create a flow of water from the tank through said tube and through said flexible hose; and,

c) a grille defined by a chamber, including a plurality of apertures formed in the walls thereof, that are narrower than the width of the gravel particles, said grille and chamber attached to said lower distal end of said tube for contact with the gravel for moving the gravel about the floor of the tank such that the gravel particles are forced by said movement to bump and rub against each other outside said tube to dislodge the sediment and impurities that have gathered therewith, and wherein said sediment and impurities are swept by said water flow through said apertures into said chamber up said tube and through said hose for discard without the


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entrance of gravel into said tube or hose.

20. The apparatus of Claim 19 wherein said grille has some portion thereof in contact with the water at all times to provide an uninterrupted flow of water through said grille, said tube and said flexible tube at all times that said grille is immersed in the water.

21. The apparatus of Claim 19 wherein said tube is formed of separate pieces that may be attached together in end-to-end fashion.

22. The apparatus of Claim 19 wherein said tube is greater in diameter than said flexible hose.

23. The apparatus of Claim 19 wherein said tube is the same diameter as said flexible hose.

24. The apparatus of Claim 19 wherein said grille is attached to said bottom end of said tube across the full open end of said tube.

25. The apparatus of Claim 19 wherein said grille is permanently attached to said bottom end of said tube.

26. The apparatus of Claim 19 wherein said grille is removeably attached to said bottom end of said tube.



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27. The apparatus of Claim 19 wherein said grille comprises:

a) a planar base frame defined by sides that form a perimeter thereabout;

b) an opening formed in said frame about which, on one side thereof, is located a means for attaching said grille to said tube lower distal end;

c) support arms extending from said base frame in convergent manner to form a tooth-shaped lattice; and,

d) at least one screen formed over said lattice having a bottom support and a top perimeter adjacent and attached to said frame.

28. The apparatus of Claim 27 wherein said support arms, said lattice, and said screen are molded in a monolithic unit.

29. The apparatus of Claim 27 wherein are formed a plurality of tooth-shaped screens and each said screen is formed parallel to the other.

30. The apparatus of Claim 27 wherein are formed a plurality of screens, wherein at least two of said screens are spaced from each other a distance such that a portion of one said screen is always exposed to water in the tank regardless of the position of said other screen.

31. The apparatus of Claim 27 wherein each said screens is further defined by a bottom support and a top perimeter, said perimeter located adjacent said base frame.

32. The apparatus of Claim 31 wherein the distance between each said bottom support and said top perimeter of said screen is greater than the depth of the gravel at the bottom of the aquarium tank.

33. The apparatus of Claim 19 wherein said screen includes a plurality of slots formed therethrough, each said slot having a width sufficient to allow passage of sediment and impurities therethrough and narrow enough to prevent the passage of gravel particles therethrough.

34. Apparatus for use in draining, cleaning and refilling an aquarium tank comprising:

a) an elongated flexible hose having first and second opposite ends;

b) a tube including an upper distal end for connection to said first end of said flexible hose, and a lower distal end adapted to be immersed in the aquarium tank such that said lower end may be placed near the bottom of the aquarium tank;

c) a water pump, including a pump inlet for connection to said flexible hose second end, for drawing water through said hose out of the tank;

d) a grille, defined by a chamber and including a plurality of apertures formed in the walls thereof that are narrower than the width of the gravel particles, said grille and chamber attached to said lower distal end of said tube for contact with the gravel for moving the gravel about the floor of the tank such that the gravel


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particles are forced by said movement to bump and rub against each other outside said tube to dislodge the sediment and impurities that have gathered therewith, and wherein said sediment and impurities are swept by said water flow through said apertures into said chamber up said tube and through said hose for discard at said pump outlet without the entrance of gravel into said tube or hose.

35. The apparatus of Claim 34 wherein said tube is formed of separate pieces that may be attached together in end-to-end fashion.

36. The apparatus of Claim 34 wherein said tube is greater in diameter than said flexible hose.

37. The apparatus of Claim 34 wherein said tube is the same diameter as said flexible hose.

38. The apparatus of Claim 34 wherein said grille is attached to said bottom end of said tube across the full open end of said tube.

39. The apparatus of Claim 34 wherein said grille is permanently attached to said bottom end of said tube.

40. The apparatus of Claim 34 wherein said grille is removeably attached to said bottom end of said tube.

41. The apparatus of Claim 34 wherein said grille comprises:

a) a planar base frame defined by sides that form a perimeter thereabout;

b) an opening formed in said frame about which, on one side thereof, is located a means for attaching said grille to said tube lower distal end;

c) support arms extending from said base frame, on the opposite side thereof from said means for attachment, said arms extending in convergent manner to form a tooth-shaped lattice; and,

d) at least one screen formed over said lattice, having a bottom support and a top perimeter adjacent and attached to said frame.

42. The apparatus of Claim 41 wherein said support arms, said lattice, and said screen are molded in a monolithic unit.

43. The apparatus of Claim 41 wherein are formed a plurality of tooth-shaped screens, each said screen formed parallel to the other.

44. The apparatus of Claim 41 wherein the distance between each said bottom support and said top perimeter of each said tooth-shaped screen is greater than the depth of the gravel at the bottom of the aquarium tank.

45. The apparatus of Claim 41 wherein said screen has formed therethrough a plurality of slots, each said slot having a width

sufficient to allow passage of sediment and impurities therethrough and narrow enough to prevent the passage of gravel particles therethrough.

46. A method of draining a portion of the water from an aquarium tank and with it the sediment and impurities that have gathered with the gravel in the bottom of the tank comprising the steps of:

a) providing a flexible hose having first and second opposite ends;

b) providing a tube having upper and lower distal ends and connecting said upper distal end thereof to said first end of said elongated flexible hose;

c) providing a tooth-shaped grille defined by a chamber whose walls are perforated by apertures that are of a size to allow passage therethrough of water, sediment and impurities but not gravel, and connecting it to said lower distal end of said tube;

d) immersing said lower distal tube end of said tube and said grille into the aquarium tank such that said grille may be placed adjacent the bottom of the aquarium tank,

e) creating a flow of water from the tank through said perforations into said grille, said tube, and said flexible hose to drain water, sediment and impurities therethrough;

f) moving said grille about the gravel at the bottom of the aquarium tank such that the gravel particles are


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forced by said movement to bump and rub against each other, outside said tube, to dislodge the sediment and impurities that have gathered therewith; and,

g) discharging said water, sediment and impurities to a drain.

47. The apparatus of Claim 46 wherein said means for creating a flow of water from the tank comprises a first means attachable to said second end of said flexible hose for connection to a flowing water source for drawing water through said flexible hose out of the tank.

48. The method of Claim 46 wherein the step of creating a flow of water from the tank through said grille, said tube, and said flexible hose to drain water, sediment and impurities therethrough includes the additional step of:

a) connecting said second flexible hose end to a faucet through a means providing suction when the faucet is opened to allow water to pass therethrough; and,

b) opening the faucet to provide a flow of water therethrough and suction to said flexible hose to create the flow of water from the tank.

49. The apparatus of Claim 47 further including a second means for causing selective and alternative flow of water from the aquarium tank through said tube and said elongated flexible hose to drain water from the tank and, in addition, causing a flow of water from said flowing water source through said hose and said tube for



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refilling the aquarium tank.

50. The method of Claim 46 wherein the step of causing a flow of water from the tank through said grille, said tube, and said flexible hose to drain water, sediment and impurities therethrough includes the step of lowering said second end of said flexible hose below the level of the bottom of the aquarium tank and starting a natural siphon flow of water therethrough.

51. The method of Claim 46 wherein the step of causing a flow of water from the tank through said grille, said tube, and said flexible hose to drain water, sediment and impurities therethrough includes the steps of:

a) providing a water pump, having an inlet and an outlet;

b) connecting said pump inlet to said second end of said elongated flexible hose and turning on the pump to provide pumping action to draw water, sediment and impurities from the aquarium tank, through said grill, said tube, and said flexible hose; and,

c) discharging said water, sediment and impurities through said pump outlet exterior the tank.



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